

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-69 (canceled)

70. (presently presented) A method for determining likelihood of a match between a first set of data having Y of N bits set equal to a first binary value and a remainder of the bits set equal to a second binary value, and a second set of data also having Y of N bits set equal to a first binary value and a remainder of the bits set equal to a second binary value, the method comprising:

determining the general probabilities of Y of N bits in said first set of data and in said second set of data being the same; and

heuristically processing the probabilities to produce a series of match values based on the number of respective bits in the first set of data and in the second set of data that are identical;

71. (presently presented) The method of claim 70, wherein said heuristically processing comprises:

assigning a match of n out of Y values a value of 1;

normalizing remaining values to the value of 1 to produce resulting numbers;

multiplying the resulting numbers by a constant to produce multiplied numbers; and

subtracting the multiplied numbers from 1 to produce the match values.

72. (presently presented) The method of claim 71, further comprising setting match values greater than a predetermined value to values substantially equal to 1.